Rome 22 March
1891

My dear Tom

Dear Maria has told me from time to time of your progress which tho' slow is still certain & that your Pains Forte had been taken up to your room but she does not say alas! that you were yet able to play upon it— Your anguish must have been great with so severe & protracted an illness

Yet as I have recovered, so (as we are alike) I'll fain persuade myself that with the Spring I shall have the happiness to hear that you are once more set up & like yourself & like me

You know from Maria that H. M.
has honoured me with a new appointment
under the King of Italy & now I have
to add that this Majesty has just
presented me with the order of the
Italian Crown of which I am made
an Officer – I am glad to have my
services acknowledged, but my Sovereign
will not allow officials to wear these
honours & so they get their wives to wear
'em, but as I have no wife must I take
one on purpose? in order that she
may wear this pretty bauble for me, I I

I have only been to one Royal party
altho' I have been invited to four, but
they are so late & so fatiguing for me

I suppose staying all the summer in Rome & once more going on with my painting – altho' my hands are daily apt of drawing yet I am equal to my writing, painting, & even my music to a certain degree – I can walk & ride but I am not equall to any great fatigue & to appear in my Uniform, half kills me & yet I am up to all my duties but often have inward hints to take care of myself & seek repose

When shall I ever see you? for a long journey would quite "take the shine out of me" & I am a little cross that I cannot be present at my Orthens marriage on the 20th prox.

The Sposa Promessa has written me